

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3556

To provide disaster relief assistance to individuals for the purpose of clearing fallen debris, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide disaster relief assistance to individuals for the purpose of clearing fallen debris, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Diversifying Emer-
5 gency Benchmarks for the Recovery of Individuals after
6 Storms Act” or the “DEBRIS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND**
2 **HOUSEHOLDS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 408(c)(2)(A) of the Rob-
4 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

6 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

7 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

8 and

9 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

10 “(ii) the removal of debris from
11 owner-occupied private residences and
12 property; and”.

13 (b) APPLICABILITY.—

14 (1) COVERED DISASTER DEFINED.—In this
15 subsection, the term “covered disaster” means a
16 major disaster declared by the President under sec-
17 tion 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
18 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) on
19 or after May 1, 2018.

20 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
21 by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any cov-
22 ered disaster.

23 (3) RESUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR ASSIST-
24 ANCE.—If a request for assistance, with respect to
25 a covered disaster, was made under section 408 of
26 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-

1 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174), as in effect
2 before the date of enactment of this Act, for the re-
3 moval of debris from an owner-occupied private resi-
4 dence or property and the request for such assist-
5 ance was denied before the date of enactment of this
6 Act, the request for assistance under such section
7 408, as amended by this Act, may be resubmitted.

8 **SEC. 3. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN MAJOR DISASTER**
9 **DECLARATIONS.**

10 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
12 Management Agency shall, by rulemaking, amend the fac-
13 tors considered when evaluating a Governor's request for
14 a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford
15 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
16 5121 et seq.) to include the estimated cost of removing
17 fallen debris from owner-occupied private residences and
18 property.

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